

East Oregonian

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Come hither, Pigmy Man,
And learn thy nothingness! Thy
vaunted span
Takes not one hand-breadth of
these peaks:
These calm rebuking flowers
outlive thee age
On age, thy puny wars, thy tiny
strife
Are but one idle random leaf
that fell,
In last night's sweeping storm.
Thou thinkest earth
Doth baste its breast to watch
these battles:
But in these vast re-
treats
Thy loudest din is but the
breathing of the pines!
Peace, peace O Man, for when
thy curtain falls
And when the vastest thing thy
hand hath made
Shall be the litter of a child's
play hour—
These peaks shall rear their
verdured heads to God.
—Maurice Smiley, in Collier's.

BUILD THE PORTAGE.

Beautifully prophetic were the words of Dr. N. G. Blacklock, before the meeting of the irrigation committee in this city last night, as he pictured the future of the inland Empire, with the completed portage road, the electric lines binding in bonds of steel the isolated communities of the interior and the farthest reach of the splendid streams of the west traversed by the steamboats laden with the products of a new and vigorous civilization.

The accomplishment of these ideals is so easily within reach of the producers of this vast empire that the delay seems to be a culpable act on the part of those interested. So little interest is generally displayed in this vital subject that it disheartens, at times, the self-sacrificing heroes that are at work on the plans of relief.

Does it seem possible that a paltry sum of \$40,000 should stand between the people and the accomplishment of the purpose of the Open River commission, in completing the portage road? Does it seem that farmers who raise from 10,000 to 100,000 bushels of wheat annually would hesitate to contribute to this project, when the reduced freight rate on one crop in this county will build two portage roads?

There is nothing now in the way of raising the subscriptions for the portage funds. Each community is supposed to collect and handle its fund as it sees fit, the sum raised to be turned over to the Open River commission after the road is completed. No advance payment is asked or expected. Pendleton can do as Lewiston is doing, as Walla Walla is doing, as Spokane is doing—collect the subscription, deposit it in home banks until the road is completed, and then pay it to those who have done the work.

When the amount is in sight, work will begin on the portage. When the word of Pendleton, Walla Walla, Spokane, Lewiston, Clarkston, The Dalles and other inland Empire towns is pledged that the amount of the subscription will be forthcoming, dirt will begin to fly on the portage road. Walla Walla has collected over \$2000, Spokane has pledged her \$5000, Lewiston and Clarkston have pledged \$5500, and now it remains for Pendleton to do her duty.

The shadow of the repeal of the portage road bill hangs over the people of the inland Empire. If, when the next legislature meets, nothing has been done toward its construction, its enemies, the railroads, will urge its repeal and the fund will be reverted to the treasury, and the barrier between the people and the sea will remain untouched.

This thought should nerve the people to immediate action. Since the people have made so many advance steps in the matter, in the face of the combined influences against them, it

will be a shameful defeat, if we put down our hands at the last moment and allow the opposition to triumph.

STATISTICS WANTED.

That the government is more than willing to study the problem of irrigation in all the different phases, and to make every possible investigation that will lead to the reclamation of the arid lands of the West, is shown in the statement of John T. Whistler, government engineer in charge of the work in Oregon, that he invites statistics from actual irrigators on winter irrigation. He desires to learn from those who have reclaimed land and who are now producing crops through winter irrigation, the actual results of such irrigation. He is anxious to convey such information to the head of the reclamation department, that its fund of knowledge on the subject of irrigation may be enriched by the experiences of the pioneers of winter irrigation.

To this end, every irrigator in Umatilla county is invited to gather the actual facts on the subject, in a comprehensive form to be collected by the Columbia River Basin Irrigation association, later, in the form of a report to Mr. Whistler.

Give the name of the farmer, location of his land, whether bottom or upland, how many acres producing under winter flooding, how much water is applied to the land during the flooding period, when and how long is the flooding period, character of the land before reclaimed, what are the products, value per acre, cost per acre of raising crops, average yield of alfalfa for a period of five or ten years under winter irrigation and the average price of alfalfa for same period.

The government is anxious to get reliable statistics of this kind. If the farmers will co-operate with the irrigation associations, in the collecting the right kind of statistics, it may influence the government to give the subject of winter irrigation consideration, in passing finally upon the feasibility of the Echo project.

The East Oregonian believes that the city of Pendleton, through the business men, the commercial association and the county of Umatilla, should each pay the expenses of one delegate to the El Paso Irrigation Congress. Where business men give their time away from pressing business to these public duties the community interested directly in the subject should provide for the expenses. Irrigation is one of the vital subjects that concerns Umatilla county. The government engineers will be there to feel the pulse of the different states, and if Umatilla county is not represented, they will naturally decide that there is little interest in the matter here. The city and county owes it to the people to see that delegates representing public sentiment in this county are sent there to prove that Umatilla county, Oregon, is one of the leading irrigated districts in the West. So far, there is no certainty about any one going from this county. Some of those who are now in the East may be there, but the city and county should see that accredited delegates are sent with instructions to urge government irrigation, both in private conferences with government engineers, and in open congress.

On January 1, 1897, in the closing days of the Cleveland administration, the wholesale cost of the breadstuffs consumed by an average American in a year was \$11.73. On September 1, 1904, it was \$18.47—an increase of \$6.74, or over 57 per cent. Of course the customer himself has had to pay a great deal more. But this increase in wholesale prices alone amounts to an additional \$3.70 to the living expenses of a family of five on a single necessary item. Does the average wage-earner have very many rolls of \$3.70 each to throw at the birds, or the Milling Trust? Either the "full dinner pail" contains two thin slices of bread now to every three thick ones it contained in Cleveland's time, or it is costing the owner more than half as much again to keep it full as it cost then. How many workmen are receiving that much more wages?

It will not increase the respect of the American people for either of them, to listen to the bluster of Lawson and Heinze, as they bluff each other, with million dollar bets on each others corruption. The disclosures of Lawson, in his "Frenzied Finance" articles in Everybody's Magazine, have been blunted by his seeming desire to get even, in print, on some one who has beaten him in finances.

Walter D. Ford, of Portland, has sued the proprietors of the Blazer gambling house for \$50,000 damages for the loss of his left eye, which he claims an employee of the firm knocked out without provocation, October 4.

The treasury department officials figure the federal deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, at \$21,568,877. It was \$748,393 for October.

THE OLDEST THING ON EARTH.

"The statement recently made that there are yews in England which are the oldest living things on this earth," Thomas C. Ireland says, "is incorrect," says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"These yews are old, very, very old; there is no doubt about that; some of them were stalwart trees even before Caesar landed on these shores. There is one now standing in the churchyard at Fortingal, in Perthshire, which Decadole nearly a century ago proved to the satisfaction of botanists to be over 25 centuries old, and another at Hedsor, in Bucks, which is 3,240 years old.

"How Decadole arrived at an apparently correct estimate of the enormous age of these living trees is a simple thing and the principle is doubtless well known today to all. The yew, like most other trees, adds one line about the tenth of an inch, to its circumference each year. He proved that after an investigation extending over several years, and we know now, a hundred years later that his deductions were correct. The old yew at Hedsor has a trunk twenty-seven feet in diameter, proving its great age, and it is in a flourishing, healthy condition now, like its brother in Fortingal.

"Their years are few, though, compared with the trees I had in mind when I made my first assertion that the statement printed about them in a scientific journal was incorrect. In one chapter of his writing Humboldt refers to a gigantic boab tree in Central Africa as the oldest organic monument in the world. The tree has a trunk 29 feet in diameter, and Adamson, by a series of careful measurements, demonstrated conclusively that it had lived for not less than 5,150 years.

Still, it is not the oldest organic monument in the world, as Humboldt declared, for now Mexican scientists have proved that a huge cypress tree, standing in Chepultapec, with a trunk 178 feet and 10 inches in circumference, is older than it—older, too, by more than a thousand years—for it has been shown that its age is about 6,000 years. To become impressed with wonder over this, one has only to dwell on that duration for a little while in thought.

"Yet, it is not so remarkable when one stops for a moment to remember that, given favorable conditions for its growth and sustenance, the average tree will never die of old age—its death is merely an accident.

Other younger and more vigorous trees may spring up near it and perhaps rob its roots of their proper nourishment; insects may kill it, floods or winds may sweep it away, or its roots may come in contact with rock and become so gnarled and twisted, because they have not room to expand in their growth, that they literally throttle the avenues of its sustenance; but these are accidents.

If such things do not happen a tree may live on for century after century, still robust, flourishing, sheltering

with its wide spreading branches the men and women of age after age."

BLUE LIGHT AND PAIN.

In a report to the state department, Consul Liefeld, of Friedburg, Germany, tells of some interesting researches carried on by Profs. Radard and Emery, of Geneva. They have discovered that the nervous system is influenced by colored light, and upon further experimentation found that blue light has a soothing effect. A patient had been placed in a dark room, exposed to a blue light of 16 candle power for three minutes, after which time a tooth has been extracted, not only without pain but with the absence of the effects which usually follow the use of ether or chloroform. —Electrical Review.

The world is sort of a joint dream. We dream separately by night, but by day together.—Ibrahim il Soffraghi.

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DISGRACEFUL SCENE



SCANDALOUS OCCURRENCE THE SHAME OF PENDLETON! PAUL STRAIN, LEADING CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF OREGON

ARRESTED AT THE DOOR HIS CLOTHING STORE COURT AND JOHNSON

His store mobbed, the blocked by a howling mob, hooted, jeered and ROEGGED HIM.

Lady customers at the store insulted, hooted and rotten Business was destroyed and because Paul Strain dared to this city and undersell the per cent profit clothing ring that reason men and women Eastern Oregon, the clothing sent their hired braves to the store and with threats of and such abuse, filth and as was ever heaped upon a head, they swore to drive from Pendleton, and when pealed to your policeman for protection that a yellow dog be entitled to, if attacked howling mob, instead of protecting Strain's business and dispersing crowds who were making hideous, he simply at the ring ring placed Strain under rest because he was a stranger asked protection.

Men and women of Oregon, is this just? Who are people most interested in Strain from Pendleton? Is butcher, the farmer, the man? No, its none of these who are interested in driving out of town and there are the methods they use.

What do you think of this?

PENDLETON

OREGON